

Chapter I

1 Overview of this Plan and its Development

This 2007 Update Addendum to the Wildland-Urban Interface Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan for Nez Perce County, Idaho, is the result of analyses, professional cooperation and collaboration, assessments of wildfire risks and other factors considered with the intent to continue reducing the potential for wildfires in Nez Perce County, Idaho. This is an annual update; thus, much of the risk analysis and background information was not reviewed. The update planning committee focused on reviewing the recommended action items, fire department information, and completed projects. Agencies and organizations that participated in the planning process included:

- Nez Perce County Commissioners and County Departments
- USDI Bureau of Land Management
- Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Nez Perce Tribe
- USDA Forest Service
- Culdesac Fire Department
- Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
- Juliaetta Fire Department
- Kendrick Fire Department
- Sunnyside Rural Fire Department
- Big Canyon Rural Fire Department
- Lapwai Fire Department
- Wheatland Fire Protection District
- Nez Perce County Fire Department
- Northwest Management, Inc.

This list above represents groups and individuals that actively participated on the update planning committee. All original members of the WUI Wildfire Mitigation planning committee were contacted to participate.

The 2007 WUI Wildfire Mitigation Plan Update process was completed simultaneously for Idaho, Clearwater, Lewis, Nez Perce, and Latah County. Funding for the five county 2007 Wildland Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan Update was provided through a grant from the Bureau of Land Management and administered by the Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council. Northwest Management, Inc. was selected to provide this service to the County. The Project Co-Managers from Northwest Management, Inc. were Mrs. Tera R. King and Mr. Vaiden Bloch.

1.1 Nez Perce County Fire Mitigation Planning Effort and Philosophy

The goals of this planning process include the integration of the National Fire Plan, the Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, and the requirements of FEMA for a county-wide Fire Mitigation Plan; a component of the County's All Hazards Mitigation Plan. This effort will utilize the best and most appropriate science from all partners, the integration of local and regional knowledge about wildfire risks and fire behavior, while meeting the needs of local citizens, the regional economy, the significance of this region to the rest of Idaho and the Inland West.

1.1.1 Mission Statement

To make Nez Perce County residents, communities, state agencies, local governments, and businesses less vulnerable to the negative effects of wildland fires through the effective administration of wildfire hazard mitigation grant programs, hazard risk assessments, wise and efficient fuels treatments, and a coordinated approach to mitigation policy through federal, state, regional, and local planning efforts. Our combined prioritization will be the protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and unique ecosystems that contribute to our way of life and the sustainability of the local and regional economy.

1.1.2 Vision Statement

Institutionalize and promote a countywide wildfire hazard mitigation ethic through leadership, professionalism, and excellence, leading the way to a safe, sustainable Nez Perce County.

1.1.3 Goals

- To reduce the area of WUI land burned and losses experienced because of wildfires where these fires threaten communities in the wildland-urban interface
- Prioritize the protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and unique ecosystems that contribute to our way of life and the sustainability of the local and regional economy
- Educate communities about the unique challenges of wildfire in the wildland-urban interface (WUI)
- Establish mitigation priorities and develop mitigation strategies in Nez Perce County
- Strategically locate and plan fuel reduction projects
- Provide recommendations for alternative treatment methods, such as modifying forest stand density, herbicide treatments, fuel reduction techniques, and disposal or removal of treated slash
- Meet or exceed the requirements of the National Fire Plan and FEMA for a County level Fire Mitigation Plan